

SENATOR STROMER: Have we figured, I know this will not cost us anything as far as State tax dollars, but have we figured as to, you mentioned there were some counties who kept up with the minimin and some who didn't. What will, do we have a county by county breakdown as to which counties this will affect by tax dollars and what that increase will be for those counties?

SENATOR ANDERSON: This data was all provided the Government Military Affairs Committee. One other question that you raised earlier concerning whether, I think both you and Senator DeCamp raised the question, as to whether the prohibition against raising salaries every four years is statutory or constitutional. I checked with the State Auditor's Office and it is constitutional. These salaries can only be raised once every four years and it must be set prior to the filing deadline for the election.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Rasmussen. Excuse me, Senator Stromer, you're not through?

SENATOR STROMER: Well, no, I wanted to sort of maybe respond to that. Even if it is constitutional when it must be set, this still wouldn't limit us from, as a matter of fact, I think it would be to a greater advantage to the county officials if we had a raise that would go along with the rate of inflation. Wouldn't this provide for a better deal for county officials for their salaries, because, this way they're going to continuously have to come back every few years to ask for a minimum to be raised.

SENATOR ANDERSON: Every four years.

SENATOR STROMER: Even if it followed that, we had to follow that they could only do it every, they could only have their raise every four years, at least if we put an inflationary rate, at least then, they could have an automatic raising of the minimum each four years without coming back continuously to ask for a request for a raise?

SENATOR ANDERSON: You're talking about creating in the statute a perpetual--

SENATOR STROMER: Right.

SENATOR ANDERSON: --cost of living increase in the minimum.

SENATOR STROMER: Yes, yes, and I think this is what Senator DeCamp and I were talking about that we'd like to work out with you on this.

SENATOR ANDERSON: The one thing that I hope we'll recognize in this is the ground that the county officials have lost in the four years of their existing term.

SENATOR STROMER: Well, this could be but I know I'm getting a great amount of comment from my home area which isn't too far from yours about great concern about all of a sudden in one year with a 25% raise even though it involves only a minimum-- now, I'm wondering--

SENATOR ANDERSON: I think, I think many of the people who are responding to this are not aware of the fact that we're talking about four years instead of one year.

SENATOR STROMER: I think maybe it makes no difference to them whether we're talking about four years or one year. I think they're concerned about 25% all of a sudden at once.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Will you yield to a question? How many counties are really affected by this?

SPEAKER: Stand by. Senator Anderson, Senator Rasmussen is